

We Claim:

1. A driver for threading a cannulated screw into a substrate, comprising:  
a tool with a screw engaging portion and a threaded tip, said screw  
engaging portion extendable through a cannula formed in the cannulated screw,  
said screw engaging portion having a shape that substantially prevents rotation  
of said screw engaging portion relative to the cannula screw when said screw  
engaging portion is extending through the cannula of the cannulated screw, said  
threaded tip extending beyond the screw when said screw engaging portion is  
inserted into the cannula of the cannulated screw.

2. The driver of Claim 1, wherein said tip has self-threading features.

3. The driver of Claim 2, wherein said tip tapers down in a direction  
distal to the screw.

4. The driver of Claim 3, wherein said tip tapers approximately to a  
point.

5. The driver of Claim 1, further including a screw abutment surface  
disposed proximate said screw engaging portion distal to said threaded tip, said  
screw abutment surface extending generally perpendicularly to said screw  
engaging portion and limiting the axial travel of the screw on said tool engaging  
portion in a direction distal to said threaded tip.

6. The driver of Claim 5, wherein the cannula of the screw has a  
friction fit over said tool engaging portion.

7. The driver of Claim 1, wherein said tool engagement portion and  
the cannula of the screw are both hexagonal in cross-section.

8. A system for fastening orthopedic prosthesis, comprising:  
 a screw with an axial cannula;

5 a tool with a screw engaging portion and a threaded tip, said screw  
 engaging portion extendable through said cannula, said screw engaging portion  
 having a shape that substantially prevents rotation of said screw engaging  
 portion relative to said cannula, when said screw engaging portion is extending  
 through said cannula of the cannulated screw, said threaded tip extending  
 beyond said screw when said screw engaging portion is inserted into said  
 10 cannula.

9. The system of Claim 8, wherein said screw is at least partially non-  
 metallic.

15 10. The system of Claim 9, wherein said screw has tapered, lead-in  
 threads.

20 11. The system of Claim 10, wherein said threaded tip is self threading  
 into bone and wherein the threads of said threaded tip are of the same general  
 direction and pitch as those of the threads on the screw, such that when said  
 screw is placed on said tool engaging portion and said threaded tip is threaded  
 into bone, the threads on said screw follow the threads of said tapered tip into  
 the bone.

25 12. The system of Claim 11, further including a screw abutment  
 surface disposed proximate said screw engaging portion distal to said threaded  
 tip, said screw abutment surface extending generally perpendicularly to said  
 screw engaging portion and limiting the axial travel of the screw on said tool  
 engaging portion in a direction distal to said threaded tip.

13. The system of Claim 12, wherein said screw is made at least partially from a bioabsorbable material.

5 14. The system of Claim 13, wherein said screw is formed from TCP particles in a PLA polymer.

15. The system of Claim 14, wherein said screw had a friction fit on said screw engaging portion.

10 16. A method for introducing cannulated screws into a substrate with a tool with a screw engaging portion extendable through the cannulated screw, the engaging portion having a shape that substantially prevents rotation of the screw engaging portion relative to the cannula, comprising the steps of:

15 (A) providing the screw engaging portion with a length greater than that of the screw;

(B) extending the screw engaging portion through the cannulated screw, a tip of the screw engaging portion extending beyond the screw:

(C) providing threads on the tip of the screw engaging portion;

20 (D) drilling a pilot hole into the substrate;

(E) inserting the tip of the screw engaging portion into the pilot hole;

(F) turning the screw engaging portion and the tip thereof;

(G) threading the threads of the tip into the pilot hole;

25 (H) continuing to turn the screw engaging portion to draw the tip deeper into the pilot hole and introducing the screw into the pilot hole.

17. The method of Claim 16, wherein the threaded tip cuts threads into the substrate during said step (G) and the screw follows the threads cut in said step (G) during said step (H).

18. The method of Claim 17, wherein the tool engaging portion has a screw abutment coupled thereto and extending perpendicularly therefrom and further including the step of limiting the rearward movement of the screw with the screw abutment during said step (H).

19. The method of Claim 18, wherein the screw is an orthopedic screw made from bioabsorbable material and further including the step of threading the screw into the substrate until it is below the surface thereof and allowing the screw to degrade over time.

20. The method of Claim 19, wherein the screw is an interference screw used to secure a replacement ACL during a Jones procedure.